

Message Text

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44

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SUBJECT: KREISKY-TITO MEETING DECEMBER 28

1. MEETING OF AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY WITH YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO AND PRESIDENCY MEMBER EDVARD KARDELJ AT BRDO, YUGOSLAVIA, ON DECEMBER 28, TO WHICH KREISKY PROCEEDED WITHOUT PRIOR PUBLICITY FROM HIS VACATION RETREAT IN WESTERN AUSTRIA, IS VIEWED BY AUSTRIAN PRESS AS FURTHER NORMALIZATION OF AUSTRO-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS, WHICH HAS PROGRESSED STEP-BY-STEP SINCE LOW POINT OF LAST MAY. AT THAT TIME, YUGOSLAV STATEMENT ON OCCASION OF 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY ACCUSED AUSTRIA OF FAILING TO FULFILL OBLIGATIONS TO SLOVENIAN MINORITY UNDER TREATY AND OF TOLERATING ANTI-YUGOSLAV, NAZI AND PAN-GERMAN ACTIVITY IN AUSTRIA, AND RAISED POSSIBILITY OF YUGOSLAV APPEAL TO TREATY SIGNATORIES, INCLUDING US AND USSR. SINCE THEN, PRESS NOTES, NEGOTIATIONS OVER DIVISION OF ARCHIVAL MATERIAL FROM OLD EMPIRE HAVE PROCEEDED WELL, AND KREISKY-TITO TALKS AT HELSINKI CSCE MEETING WERE CORDIAL. AUSTRIANS APPEAR NOW TO BE REDEFINING PROJECTED MINORITY CENSUS IN AUSTRIA IN TERMS THAT MAY BE ACCEPTABLE TO AUSTRIAN SLOVENES AND YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT AND THUS AVOID NEED FOR ANY MORE

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FORMAL AUSTRO-YUGOSLAV UNDERSTANDING. PRESS QUOTES

KREISKY AS SAYING THAT CENSUS WOULD NOT BE "DETERMINATION
OF A MINORITY BUT MERELY LANGUAGE COUCT."

2. WHILE MINORITY PROBLEM WAS MAIN TOPIC OF TALKS,
PRESS STATED BILATERAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS AS WELL AS
INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THAT OF MIDDLE EAST,
WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. PRESS REPORTED NO MORE OF THOSE
DISCUSSIONS THAN APPEARED IN FBIS VIENNA AU 291925 AND
AU 291952.MEEHAN

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